



July 25, 2022

Dr. Ashwin Vasan
Commissioner
NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
42-09 28th Street, 14th Floor
Long Island City, NY 11101

Dear Commissioner Vasan:

We are grateful to the Department of Health and Mental Health for quickly administering the monkeypox vaccine doses it has received. The New York metro area has the largest LGBTQ+ population in the country and New York City has more cases of monkeypox than any jurisdiction in the nation. With demand exceeding supply, we are writing to request that New York City establish a waitlist for eligible people seeking a monkeypox vaccine.

Our offices have been contacted by many people who are desperate for a vaccine that requires quick-clicking and luck to obtain under the current appointment system. In addition, the appointment website has often crashed when a tranche of appointments has been released, which only adds to public uncertainty. We are sure you agree this is not acceptable.

A waitlist or pre-registration system similar to what has been established in Washington, DC would help to quell uncertainty and restore some order to a chaotic process. An individual would be contacted when an appointment becomes available and decide whether to accept or not. This would eliminate the reliance on technological savviness and would make the process more equitable.

In addition, we would like to see more public education, including how people can stay safe. We all want a more effective response to this public health epidemic. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Richard Gottfried
Member of Assembly
75th District



Brad Hoylman
State Senator
27th District



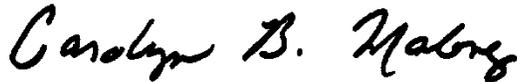
Erik Bottcher
NYC Council Member
3rd District



Mark Levine
Borough President
Manhattan



Jerry Nadler
Member of Congress
10th District



Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress
12th District



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